

1 **Frank Frisenda (State Bar #85580)**
2 **FRISENDA, QUINTON & NICHOLSON**
3 **11601 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 500**
4 **Los Angeles, California 90025**
5 **Tel.: (702) 792-3910**
6 **Fax: (702) 436-4176**
7 **E-Mail: frankfrisenda@aol.com**
8 **Attorney for Plaintiffs Jan Davidson et al**

9
10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
12 **WESTERN DIVISION**

13 **JAN DAVIDSON, a citizen of California, and**
14 **LAUGH LINES, a California Corporation,**

15 **Plaintiffs,**

16 **vs.**

17
18 **BRAIN BUSTER ENTERPRISES, LLC, a**
19 **Florida limited liability company,**
20 **ERIC HWANG, a citizen of Washington, and**
21 **DOES 1-10, inclusive,**

22 **Defendants.**

Case No.:

COMPLAINT FOR:

1. **COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**
2. **VIOLATION OF THE LANHAM ACT 15 USC 1125(a)**
3. **VICARIOUS COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT; and**
4. **CONTRIBUTORY COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

23
24
25
26 Plaintiffs Jan Davidson and Laugh Lines (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), by their counsel, file
27 this complaint against Defendants Brain Buster Enterprises, LLC, Eric Hwang, and Does 1 through
28 10 (collectively "Defendants") and hereby demand a jury trial and allege and say:

1 5. Plaintiff Laugh Lines is a California corporation, founded by Plaintiff Davidson, with
2 its principal place of business in Santa Barbara, California. At least since 2014, Plaintiff Laugh
3 Lines has, and continues to, design, manufacture, distribute and sell within this Judicial District, and
4 though out the United States, products which embody the copyrighted WINO EYE CHART
5 artwork. Exhibit "2" hereto is a representative sample of Plaintiffs' copyrighted products. As
6 shown in Exhibit "3" hereto, the genuine artwork bears Plaintiff Davidson's copyright notice in
7 addition to the phrase "All rights reserved".

8 6. Upon information and belief, Defendant Brain Buster Enterprises, LLC ("Defendant
9 BBE") is, and at all times herein mentioned was, a Florida limited liability company, with its
10 principal place of business at 36 E. 20th Street, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10003. Defendant BBE is
11 the owner of the URL, TEE PUBLIC, an interactive website, that distributes, sells, promotes,
12 advertises and offers to sell the Accused Products. Upon information and belief, Defendant BBE
13 obtained financial benefits from the manufacture of the Accused Products and from the subject
14 infringement. Defendant BBE distributes, sells and promotes the Accused Products, promotes the
15 activities of Defendant Hwang and otherwise contributes to the infringement of Plaintiffs protected
16 work. Exhibit "4" hereto are true and correct copies of the promotion and offer for sale of the
17 Accused Products from Defendant BBE website.

18 7. Upon information and belief, Defendant Eric Hwang ("Defendant Hwang") is, and at all
19 times herein mentioned was an individual of Washington residing at 1025 Main St., Edmonds, WA
20 98020-2908. Defendant Hwang does business as TRAVELWITHERIC and is the owner of the
21 email: travelwitheric@gmail.com. Defendant Hwang manufactures, distributes sells, promotes,
22 advertises and offers to sell the Accused Products on Defendant BBE website among other channels
23 of trade.

24 8. Defendant Hwang has had actual notice of infringement of Plaintiff's Copyright rights
25 at least since March 1, 2015. In this respect, Defendant Hwang had received Zazzle Report
26 Violation Copyright 01191811 arising from Defendant's Hwang prior infringement of Plaintiff's
27 Copyrighted artwork.

28 9. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or
otherwise, of defendants sued herein as Does 1 through 10, are unknown to Plaintiffs, which
therefore sue said defendants by such fictitious names (the "Doe Defendants"). If necessary,

1 Plaintiffs will seek leave of Court to amend this complaint to state the true names and capacities
2 of the Doe Defendants when the same have been ascertained. Plaintiffs are informed and
3 believe, and on that basis aver, that the Doe Defendants are liable to Plaintiffs as a result of
4 their participation in all or some of the acts hereinafter set forth.

5 10. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and on that basis aver that at all times mentioned
6 in this complaint, each of the Defendants was acting in concert with all of the other Defendants
7 and was the agent of each of the other Defendants and, in doing the things averred in this
8 complaint, was acting within the course and scope of such agency. //

9 //

10 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11
12 10. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 501 and 28 U.S.C.
13 §§ 1331, 1338, and 1367(a).

14 11. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(c) and
15 1400(b).

16 12. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants, which do and solicit continuous
17 and systematic business in California; which engage in at least a substantial part of the conduct
18 averred herein in California, which conduct has injured Plaintiffs in California; which transact
19 business with one another in California, including with respect to the matters giving rise to this
20 suit; which derive substantial revenue from goods used or services rendered in California; which
21 expect or reasonably should expect their infringing conduct to have consequences in California;
22 and which derive substantial revenue from interstate commerce

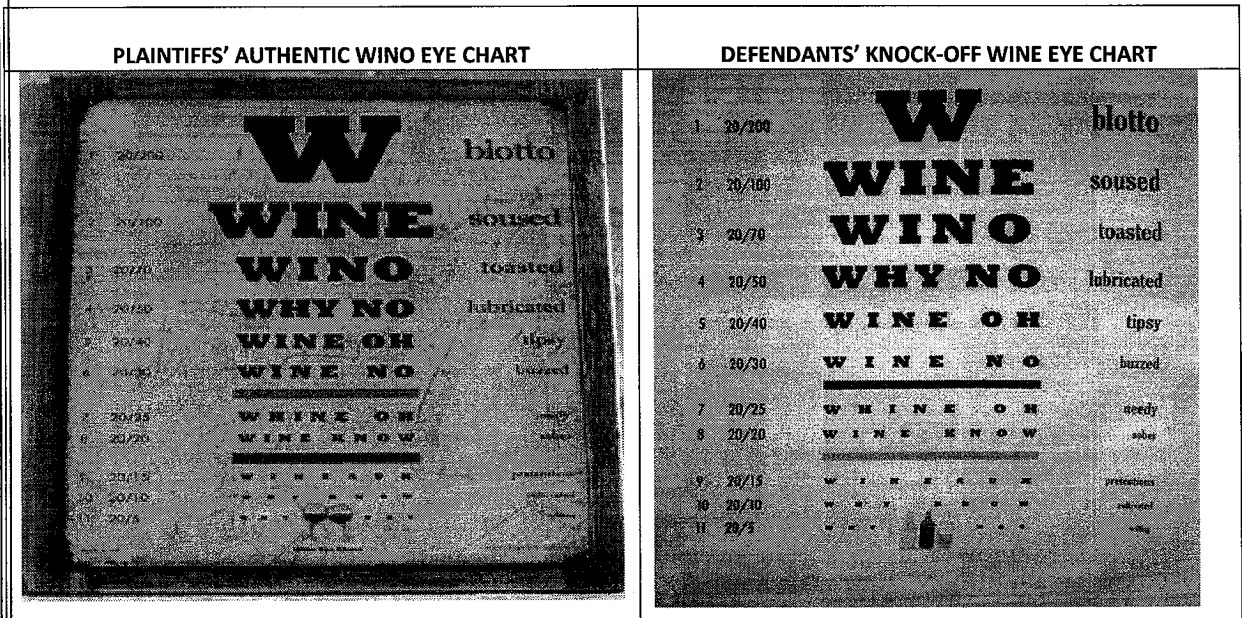
23 **BACKGROUND FACTS**

24 13. Plaintiff Jan Davidson is well known in the wine community as a phenomenal artist,
25 with a good sense of humor. For at least the past decade, Ms. Davidson has developed many loyal
26 customers and has utilized her artistic skills by customizing orders per many requests.

27 14. Plaintiff Laugh Lines is owned and operated by Jan Davidson. Laugh Lines produces
28 art for galleries and for the general consuming public. Laugh Lines has successfully sold thousands

of authentic artworks by Jan Davison marketed through the trade channels such as internet sites and retail stores such as Napa General Store, Wine Vine Imports, and True Fabrications.

15. A comparison of Defendants' Accused Product with Plaintiffs' authentic artwork shows Defendants' deceptive efforts to imitate, rather than innovative, as follows:



16. The striking similarities between the two competing products demonstrates Defendants' deceptive intent and use of Plaintiffs' wall chart features. For instance, each artwork has central wording in the format of an EYE CHART. Every line reads phonetically like "WINO" spelled in several combinations of words. Every line in Plaintiffs' authentic product has a humorous summary on the right margin "blotto; "soused"; "toasted" "lubricated"; "tipsy" "buzzed"; "needy"; "sober"; "pretentious"; "cultivated"; and "willing". These unusual combinations seen in Defendants' product, and in virtually the same order as Plaintiffs' artwork are the unmistakable signposts of Defendants' copying and Defendants' trading off of Plaintiffs' goodwill.

17. Defendants' accused wall chart products also use similar trade dress features of Plaintiffs' authentic products including: font (block letter with Serif), a color border between the 6th and 7th line and between the 8th and 9th line of the eye chart text. Defendants sell and offer to sell, tee shirts, baseball shirts, long sleeve shirts and wall charts prominently displaying Plaintiffs' artwork.

1
2 18. Defendants use their infringing copies of Plaintiffs' artwork to draw attention to, and
3 promote the sales of, their other products and services. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on
4 that basis aver, that Defendants have knowingly and intentionally used infringing artwork owned by
5 Plaintiffs as a "door opener" to solicit customers to purchase other goods and services from
6 Defendants. Defendants' infringing and unlawful uses of Plaintiffs' copyrighted, and otherwise
7 protected works have at least partially contributed to, are reasonably related to, and/or bear a legally
8 significant relationship to Defendants' sales of such other goods and services and Defendants' profits
9 there from.

10 19. Defendants' misconduct has proximately caused substantial additional damage to
11 Plaintiffs in many separate and independent ways. By way of example only, and without
12 limitation, Defendants' unauthorized uses of Plaintiffs' property diminishes the value of such
13 property for other uses, including first-use premiums and exclusive uses; and by using, and
14 advertising and promoting their use of, Plaintiffs' property without any indication that such uses
15 are licensed or authorized by Plaintiffs, Defendants denigrate and disparage Plaintiffs and their
16 artwork by conveying to their customers and the general public that Plaintiffs' property is
17 without value, and/or is of insignificant or insubstantial value, to Plaintiffs' great and
18 incalculable injury.

19 20. Through their conduct averred herein, Defendants have infringed Plaintiffs'
20 copyrights and exclusive rights in Plaintiffs' copyrighted and otherwise protected products
21 by reproducing, distributing, and preparing derivative works based upon such works without
22 authorization in violation of Sections 106, 115, and 501 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§
23 106, 115, and 501.

24 21. On or about January 13, 2015 Plaintiff Jan Davidson communicated with Timothy
25 from Zazzle, Inc. that they remove all infringing products from their website.

26 **COUNT I – COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

27 **By Plaintiff Davidson against All Defendants**

28 22. Plaintiff Davidson re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 21 as if fully set forth herein.

1
2 23. Plaintiff is the author of the original copyrighted works of art that the Defendants have
3 unlawfully copied and sold. Such original works of art of Plaintiff are fixed in a tangible form and
4 have been published. As such, Plaintiff Davidson owns the copyrights to her artwork and is entitled
5 to protections afforded under common law and 17 U.S.C. § 501, et seq. Plaintiff attaches a
6 copyright notice to all of her published work.

7
8 24. Without authorization, Defendants have willfully copied and sold Plaintiff's
9 copyrighted work, which to the ordinary observer, are substantially and strikingly similar to
10 Plaintiff's copyrighted work, in violation of common law and federal law.

11 25. Defendants, through internet sites, mass-merchants and other retailers, offer for sale,
12 market and have sold unauthorized and fraudulent copies of Plaintiff's works and received profits
13 therefrom.

14
15 26. Defendants knew that these works infringed upon Plaintiff's copyright and they
16 willfully sold these infringing works and received profits therefrom.

17
18 27. Defendants have induced, caused or materially contributed to the infringing acts
19 alleged herein and are liable to Plaintiff Davidson for direct, contributory or vicarious copyright
20 infringement.

21 28. Defendants have economically benefited from the sale of these unauthorized copies of
22 Plaintiff's copyrighted work.

23
24 29. As a result of Defendants' willful infringement of Plaintiff's copyrighted artwork,
25 Plaintiff has been injured, and will continue to suffer substantial losses, including, but not limited
26 to, damage to her name, reputation and goodwill. Plaintiff is entitled to recover actual damages,
27 which include her losses and all profits Defendant has made as a result of their wrongful conduct,
28 pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b).

1
2 30. Plaintiff is also entitled to injunctive relief pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502 and to an
3 Order impounding any and all infringing materials pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 503. Plaintiff has no
4 adequate remedy at law for Defendant's wrongful conduct because, among other things, (a)
5 Plaintiff's copyright is unique and valuable property which has readily determinable market value;
6 (b) Defendant's infringement harms Plaintiffs' business reputation and goodwill such that Plaintiff
7 could not be made whole by any monetary award; and, (c) Defendant's wrongful conduct, and the
8 resulting damage to Plaintiffs, is continuing.

9 31. Alternatively, with actual or constructive knowledge of the infringing activity,
10 Defendants have induced, caused and/or materially contributed to the infringing conduct of
11 others; and/or have failed to exercise their respective rights and abilities to control the conduct
12 of those responsible for infringement, while deriving a financial benefit from the infringement.

13 32. Defendants' conduct was intentional and willful and undertaken with a conscious
14 disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Plaintiff Davidson is entitled to statutory damages under the
15 Copyright Act or, alternatively, compensatory damages, including but not limited to Defendants'
16 profits attributable to the infringement, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504. Plaintiff also is entitled to her
17 attorneys' fees and full costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.

18 **COUNT II – FEDERAL UNFAIR COMPETITION AND FALSE DESIGNATION**
19 **OF ORIGIN IN VIOLATION OF 15 USC 1125(a)**

20 **By Plaintiffs against All Defendants**

21 33. Plaintiffs reallege all of the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 32
22 above, as if set forth in full herein.

23 34. Plaintiffs have manufactured, advertised, distributed, marketed, promoted and
24 offered for sale their authentic artwork products that embody Plaintiff Davidson's copyrighted
25 material. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that consumers recognize the
26 features of Plaintiffs' artwork products (Exhibit "2") as coming from a unique source, namely,
27 Plaintiffs.
28

1
2 41. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them,
3 knowingly induced, participated in, aided and abetted in and resultantly profited from the illegal
4 reproduction, importation, purchase, marketing, advertisement, distribution and/or sales of product
5 featuring the Subject Design as alleged herein above.

6
7 42. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them,
8 are vicariously liable for the infringement alleged herein because they had the right and ability to
9 supervise the infringing conduct and because they had a direct financial interest in the infringing
10 product.

11
12 43. By reason of the Defendants', and each of their, acts of contributory and/or vicarious
13 infringement as alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial damages
14 to its business in an amount to be established at trial, as well as additional general and special
15 damages in an amount to be established at trial.

16
17 44. Due to Defendants' acts of contributory and/or vicarious copyright infringement as
18 alleged herein, Defendants, and each of them, have obtained direct and indirect profits they would
19 have not otherwise realized but for their infringement of the Subject Design. As such, Plaintiff is
20 entitled to disgorgement of Defendants' profits directly and indirectly attributable to Defendants'
21 infringement of the Subject Design, an amount to be established at trial.

22
23 45. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them,
24 have committed acts of infringement alleged herein with actual or constructive knowledge of
25 Plaintiff's rights such that Plaintiff is entitled to a finding of willful infringement.

26
27 **COUNT IV**

28 **CONTRIBUTORY COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

By Plaintiff Davidson Against All Defendants

46. Plaintiff repeats, re-alleges and incorporates herein by reference as though fully set forth
the allegations contained heretofore, inclusive, of this Complaint.

1
2 47. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them,
3 knowingly induced, caused, materially contributed to, participated in, encourages, aided and abetted
4 in and resultantly profited from the illegal reproduction, importation, purchase, marketing,
5 advertising, distribution and/or sales of product featuring the Subject Design as alleged herein
6 above.

7
8 48. By reason of the Defendants', and each of their, acts of contributory copyright
9 infringement as alleged above, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer substantial damages
10 to its business in an amount to established at trial, as well as additional general and special damages
11 in an amount to be established at trial.

12 49. Due to Defendants' acts of contributory copyright infringement as alleged herein,
13 Defendants, and each of them, have obtained direct and indirect profits they would have not
14 otherwise realized bur for their infringement of the Subject Design. As such, Plaintiff is entitled to
15 disgorgement of Defendants' profits directly and indirectly attributable to Defendants' infringement
16 of the Subject Design, an amount to be established at trial.

17
18 50. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants, and each of them,
19 have committed acts of infringement alleged herein with actual or constructive knowledge of
20 Plaintiff's rights such that Plaintiff is entitled to a finding of willful infringement.

21 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

22
23
24 WHEREFORE Plaintiffs respectfully pray for judgment against Defendants, granting Plaintiffs the
25 following relief:

26 1. On Count I, for maximum statutory damages in the amount of \$150,000 with respect to
27 each copyrighted work infringed, or for such other amount as may be proper pursuant to 17
28 U.S.C. § 504(c), or in the alternative for an award of Defendants' profits and for compensatory

1 damages according to proof;

2
3 1. On Counts II and III, for an accounting, the imposition of a constructive trust,
4 restitution of Defendants' unlawful proceeds, and damages according to proof;

5 2. On Counts III for punitive and exemplary damages in such amount as may
6 be awarded at trial;

7 3. On all counts, a temporary and final injunction to prevent or restrain further
8 infringements and misappropriations of Plaintiffs' copyrights and exclusive ownership
9 interests;

10 4. For prejudgment interest;

11 6. For Plaintiffs' costs, including, on Counts I , their attorneys' fees and full costs
12 pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505; and

13 7. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

14 FRISENDA, QUINTON & NICHOLSON

15 Dated: June 11, 2018

16 By: 

17 FRANK FRISENDA, JR.
18 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
19 JAN DAVIDSON et al

20 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

21 Plaintiffs hereby request a trial by jury.

22 FRISENDA, QUINTON & NICHOLSON

23
24 Dated: June 11, 2018

25 By: 

26 FRANK FRISENDA, JR.
27 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
28 JAN DAVIDSON et al